



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
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STAFF SUBMITTAL
for the meeting of the
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

April 16, 2008
Honolulu, Oahu

Request for Approval of New Drought Mitigation
Projects Funded Under Act 238, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Staff is requesting that the Commission approve new drought mitigation projects for Oahu and Hawaii Island to be funded under Act 238, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007.

BACKGROUND:

The 2007 Hawaii State Legislature passed House Bill 400, HD1, SD2, CD1 (Bill), appropriating \$4,000,000 for drought mitigation projects and measures in each County of the State. The Bill recognizes that the County Drought Committees developed their respective County Drought Mitigation Strategies in 2004, which focus on drought mitigation projects and measures. The Bill also designates the Department of Land and Natural Resources as the expending agency. Governor Linda Lingle subsequently signed the Bill into law as Act 238 and approved the release of its funding.

On December 19, 2007, the Commission approved delegating authority to the Chairperson to enter into memoranda of agreement to disburse funds appropriated under Act 238 subject to the following conditions:

1. Limited to the projects listed in Exhibit 2, with rankings notwithstanding;
2. The sample MOA is a template which may be adjusted;
3. Each MOA is subject to the terms and conditions stipulated by the Chair and also be reviewed by the Department of Attorney General; and
4. Any new projects not contained in Exhibit 2, be brought back to the Commission for review and approval.

Per Condition 4 above, approval was limited to the list of projects in the submittal and any new projects would need to be submitted for Commission review and approval. See Exhibit 1 for the list of original drought mitigation projects.

Since this time, staff was notified that two projects would be withdrawn by the respective sponsors. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) withdrew its project to convert the Honolulu Board of Water Supply Waimanalo Well 1 to agricultural use (see Exhibit 1, City and County of Honolulu, Project 1). Funding allocated to this project was \$400,000. This project is now being funded by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation under its emergency drought assistance program. However, HDOA is requesting to reserve \$75,000 of Act 238 funds to cover the non-Federal cost share for this project. This leaves \$325,000 for other Oahu drought mitigation projects.

The Hawaii Department of Water Supply (HDWS) withdrew the project to construct an emergency community water station (see Exhibit 1, County of Hawaii, Project 3). Funding allocated to this project was \$300,000. This amount was adjusted down to \$248,000 based on the \$1,000,000 of Act 238 funding available to the County of Hawaii and subtracting the cost of the two higher ranked projects (which totaled \$752,000). The HDWS noted that they would need to acquire land for the emergency community water station project and that the acquisition time frame was indefinite, therefore they could not initiate the project at this time.

REPLACEMENT PROJECTS:

Staff conferred with the Oahu Drought Committee and the County of Hawaii Drought Committee in order to determine replacement projects for those that were withdrawn.

The Oahu Drought Committee held a meeting and decided on five entirely new replacement projects that could be completed with the available \$325,000. These replacement projects are detailed in the table below.

At its September 12, 2007 meeting, the County of Hawaii Drought Committee ranked 10 different drought mitigation projects which would cost a total of \$1,394,000. At that time, only the top three projects could be funded with the available \$1,000,000 (per county). In order to find a replacement for the withdrawn HDWS project, the County of Hawaii Drought Committee was asked if the lower ranked projects could be combined and modified to replace the withdrawn project. This was agreed upon through e-mail correspondence. This modified project is also detailed in the following table.

Project Sponsor	Project Description	Estimated Cost
Oahu		
DOFAW	Fuel Reduction Equipment Purchase – wood chipper	\$45,000
Honolulu BWS	Drive By Leak Logger – internal water conservation	\$135,000 between these two projects
Honolulu BWS	Toilet Rebate Program – external water conservation	
CWRM	Water Conservation Ala Wai Harbor – plumbing fixture replacement and sub-metering in DLNR facilities	\$100,000
West Oahu SWCD	Lower Kawaihoa Drought Mitigation Planning Study to determine water storage capacity during drought periods	\$45,000
Hawaii		
DOFAW	Big Island Drought/Wildland Fire Mitigation – heavy equipment repair, helicopter dip tanks (West Hawaii), slip on water tanks, Firewise outreach, Puako fuelbreak, RAWS	\$248,000

RECOMMENDATION:

In compliance with Condition 4 or the December 19, 2007 Commission action, staff recommends that the Commission approve the new drought mitigation projects in the table above. All other aspects of the Commission's December 19, 2007 decision remains in effect.

Sincerely,



KEN C. KAWAHARA, P.E.
Deputy Director

Exhibit: 1 (List of approved drought mitigation projects from the December 19, 2007 Commission meeting)

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson

DROUGHT MITIGATION PROJECT RANKING

The following tables show the results of the County Drought Committees' drought mitigation project evaluation and ranking.

County of Kauai

RANK	PROJECT SPONSOR	PROJECT	EST. COST
1	Kauai DOW	Facility Testing, Evaluation, and Reporting: Kekaha Amfac Shaft renovation and replacement pipeline	\$500,000
2	DOFAW	Roadside fuel treatments	\$150,000
3	Kauai DOW	County-wide conservation and education program	\$150,000
4	DOFAW	Installation of Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS)	\$100,000
4	DOFAW	Maintain and expand fire breaks at Anahola	\$50,000
5	Kauai DOW	Emergency interconnection between Kauai Department of Water Koloa Water System and Grove Farm Koloa Water System	\$50,000
		TOTAL	\$1,000,000

City and County of Honolulu

RANK	PROJECT SPONSOR	PROJECT	EST. COST
1	HDOA	BWS Waimanalo Well I: Conversion to Agricultural Use (Expand reuse, brackish water, and blending applications)	\$400,000
2	DOFAW	Fuel hazard reduction within the wildland urban interface	\$100,000
3	Honolulu BWS/ DOFAW	Inventory, maintain, and expand fire fighting water sources with consideration for threatened and endangered species, develop protocols for salt water use, and use of supporting technology	\$350,000
4	DOFAW	Installation of Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS)	\$50,000
4	FSA/CWRM	Documenting agricultural and other commercial losses due to drought	\$100,000
		TOTAL	\$1,000,000

County of Maui

RANK	PROJECT SPONSOR	PROJECT	EST. COST
1	Central Maui SWCD	Maui County Storm Water Capture Planning and Engineering Study	\$200,000
2	County of Maui	Kula Agricultural Park Water System Improvements	\$1,000,000
		TOTAL	\$1,200,000

The total project cost for the County of Maui exceeds \$1,000,000 because the cost of the Kula Agricultural Park Water System Improvements project was initially underestimated. Both projects are listed here in the case that other Counties are unable to use their entire allocation, which would become available to the other Counties.

County of Hawaii

RANK	PROJECT SPONSOR	PROJECT	EST. COST
1	State Civil Defense	Improvements to Kohala Ditch Irrigation System	\$502,000
2	DOFAW	Completion of Puu Waawaa Reservoir	\$250,000
3	HDWS	Emergency Community Water Stations	\$300,000
4	DOFAW	Installation of water and dip tank at eight sites in North Kona and North and South Kohala for water dip tanks.	\$128,000
5	DOFAW	Expansion of the fuelbreak network in Pu'u Anahulu	\$72,000
6	DOFAW	Support Community Wildfire Protection Plans	\$40,000
7	DOFAW	Installation of Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS)	\$72,000
8	SWCD	Install Dry Hydrants and develop static water sources	\$10,000 per site
9	DOFAW	Conversion of HWMO Wildfire Resource Map to laptop/notebook format.	\$20,000
10	DOFAW/ SWCD	Agricultural practices to mitigate wildland fires in communities and subdivisions	\$TBD
		TOTAL	\$1,394,000

The total project cost for the County of Hawaii exceeds \$1,000,000 because some of these projects were submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as proposals requesting funding under the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. It is anticipated that FEMA funding will be awarded to these projects.

The preceding lists of projects show current needs in each County. Looking ahead, some projects may be implemented or partially implemented using funding sources other than Act 238 allocation. In this situation, the projects no longer requiring Act 238 funding would be removed from the list(s) and new projects may be added.